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February 2, 2017

EX PARTE PRESENTATION

Ms. Kris Monteith
Acting Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.*, WC Docket 10-90, Order,
FCC 16-167 (rel. Dec. 5, 2016).

Dear Ms. Monteith:

On December 5, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission released an Order pursuant to a staff audit of Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. ("SIC") accounts and records associated with SIC's receipt of universal service support. *Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.*, WC Docket 10-90, Order, FCC 16-167 (rel. Dec. 5, 2016) ("*USF Order*"). The *USF Order* contains redactions of material that the Commission deemed confidential to SIC.

The *USF Order*'s redaction also includes financial information or other information that is likely to be relevant to the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. ("NECA"), in its role as administrator of access pooling and tariffing and its obligation to collect data for High Cost Loop submissions.

Accordingly, NECA requested that SIC provide an un-redacted copy of the December 5, 2016 *USF Order* pursuant to the Agreement for the Distribution of Interstate Access Revenues entered into between NECA and SIC, dated April 10, 1998. SIC, in turn, has stated the *USF Order* is subject to a Protective Order and would require NECA to complete the relevant acknowledgements or declarations preventing disclosure.

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NECA is, of course, willing to sign a Protective Order. However, assuming SIC is referring to the general Protective Order(s) in the docket,¹ NECA is concerned they limit use of confidential data to matters related directly to the docketed proceeding. This limitation would prohibit NECA from using the information to fulfill its obligations under FCC rules to administer the tariff and pooling process and to collect data for High Cost Loop submissions.

Therefore, NECA requests that the Commission or the Wireline Competition Bureau issue a new reasonable Protective Order in this matter designed (1) to protect confidential information in the *USF Order*, or other requested material related to this matter, from public disclosure, and (2) to restrict NECA from utilizing the information other than in this proceeding or for NECA to fulfill its obligations under FCC rules.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gregory J. Vogt

Gregory J. Vogt
Counsel for National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.

cc: Pamela Arluk
Ryan Palmer
Jamie Barnett

¹ *E.g., Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*, CC Docket No. 01-92, WC Docket Nos. 07-135, 10-90, 05-337, GN Docket No. 09-51, Third Protective Order, 27 FCC Rcd 10276 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012); *Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*, CC Docket No. 01-92, WC Docket Nos. 07-135, 10-90, 05-337, GN Docket No. 09-51, Second Protective Order, 27 FCC Rcd 1494 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012).